

Message

From: Minter, Douglas [Minter.Douglas@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/2/2018 7:51:50 PM
To: Bahrman, Sarah [Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Permit metrics and LOE discussion
Attachments: backlog strategy 618.docx

Flag: Follow up

Sarah: from Bert's email below, I understand the goals being 1) eliminating our backlog by 12/31/18; and 2) preventing new applications from becoming backlogged.

In response to his question as to "whether we're making all efforts we could/should to meet this goal(s)", I believe the answer is no. Since he also says "we'll discuss any other resources to apply or changes to make", I see the scope of solutions to include how we can increase the timeliness of our permitting with existing resources AND how additional resources can be applied to address both goals.

Short-term solutions to meet goals:

Utilize OGWDW contractual resources (being done for DB permits related to public comments, technical support and tribal consultation logistics...other permits?)
Access technical support outside Unit (presently Rick A for DB permits...others permits?)
Group some of our proposed permit actions for approval/denial together for public comment and tribal consultation (approval of those for which we have complete data and denial for those we do not)
Reach out to operators with dormant applications and request voluntary withdrawal with some assurances by ARA/OWP
Directed re-assignments to increase capacity for permitting (e.g., Omar takes on more applications due to Class V disinvestments)
Collateral duty re-assignments for those with UIC experience outside Unit for permitting (e.g., Tricia takes on UIC permitting work)
Reduce demands for non-permitting staff time (e.g., public presentations, training/educational conferences, staff travel to All States meeting in Billings this fall, commitments outside Unit including WERT, PHS deployment or other emergency responses)

Long-term solutions to meet goals:

Permanent backfill for vice-Deardorff (and possibly additional FTE if demand for UIC permit work significantly increases)
Details to UIC Unit for those with appropriate skills/experience (e.g., permitting in other programs)
Other ideas?

Douglas

From: Minter, Douglas
Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 10:30 AM
To: Bahrman, Sarah <Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Permit metrics and LOE discussion

This email train provides a bit more clarity for me for our 2:30 pm meeting today. I will try to reply back with more specific ideas, etc. before we meet.

From: Minter, Douglas
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2018 3:52 PM
To: Garcia, Bert <Garcia.Bert@epa.gov>

Cc: Sandra Spence <Spence.Sandra@epa.gov>; Miller, Johanna <Miller.Johanna@epa.gov>; O'Connor, Darcy <oconnor.darcy@epa.gov>; Bahrman, Sarah <Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Permit metrics and LOE discussion

Bert: To help inform my/our thinking, here are some ideas, etc. my UIC counterpart in Region 5 (Steve Jann) is considering for dis/investments to better enable them to meet the 12/31/18 deadline. Region 5 is the one Region with a larger backlog (16) than Region 8's.

FYI, we do plan to request contractual support recently offered by OGWDW to help us with certain aspects of our Dewey Burdock workload.

Douglas

From: Garcia, Bert

Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2018 12:05 PM

To: Lucero, Adele <Lucero.Adele@epa.gov>

Cc: Spence, Sandra <Spence.Sandra@epa.gov>; Minter, Douglas <Minter.Douglas@epa.gov>; Miller, Johanna <Miller.Johanna@epa.gov>

Subject: Permit metrics and LOE discussion

Adele, Would you please set up two meetings for a discussion of our level of effort toward meeting the end of year goal of 0 six-month permit backlogs? This is a follow-up to a request from Deb to Darcy.

Both meetings need to be held prior to the next OWP business review August 14.

Propose: Unit Leaders report out on whether we're making all efforts we could/should to meet this goal. We'll discuss any other resources to apply or changes to make.

NPDES discussion: Required: Darcy, Sandie Spence, Johanna, Bert

UIC Discussion: Required: Darcy, Douglas, Sarah, Bert

Time: ½ hour for each.

Thanks!

Bert Garcia
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